

2000

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$777 million.
- Congress passes a new national drunk driving limit of 0.08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) with the support of MADD, other victim advocacy organizations, and leading highway safety, health, medical, law enforcement, and insurance groups. The new law, passed with bipartisan support, requires states to pass 0.08 "per se intoxication" laws or lose a portion of their annual federal highway funding.
- Congress reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, extending VAWA through 2005 and authorizing funding at \$3.3 billion over the five-year period. In addition to expanding federal stalking statutes to include stalking on the Internet, the Act authorizes:
 - > \$80 million a year for rape prevention and education grants.
 - > \$875 million over five years for battered women's shelters.
 - > \$25 million in 2001 for transitional housing programs.
 - > \$25 million to address violence against older women and women with disabilities.
- The Internet Crime Complaint Center website, www.ic3.gov, is created by the U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, and the National White Collar Crime Center to combat Internet fraud by giving consumers a convenient way to report violations and by centralizing information about fraud crimes for law enforcement.
- Attorney General Reno revises and reissues the *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*, which mandates that every Department of Justice employee who comes into contact with crime victims receives at minimum one hour of training about victim rights laws and the guidelines.
- Victimization rates as reported in the National Crime Victimization Survey are the lowest recorded since the survey's creation in 1973.
- The Treasury Department conducts the National Summit on Identity Theft, which addresses prevention techniques, victims' experiences, and remediation in the government and private sector. The summit is the first national-level conference involving law enforcement, victims, industry representatives, and nonprofit organizations interested in the issue. At the summit, Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers unveils four new initiatives to address identity theft.
- A federal victims' rights constitutional amendment is addressed for the first time by the full U.S. Senate. Following two-and-a-half days of debate, the measure (S.J. Res. 3) is withdrawn for further consideration by its cosponsors, Senators Kyl (R-AZ) and Feinstein (D-CA), when it becomes apparent that the measure will not receive the two-thirds majority vote necessary for approval.
- Congress passes and the President signs the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. This new law significantly strengthens criminal enforcement, prosecution, and penalties against traffickers; provides new protections to victims; and enables victims of severe forms of trafficking to seek benefits and services available to other crime victims.

2001

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$544 million.
- The National Crime Victimization Survey reports that victimization rates continue to drop, reaching a new low of 26 million victims for the year 2000.
- On September 11, 2001, two hijacked planes crash into the World Trade Center, another into the Pentagon, and a fourth into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, killing 2,974 victims and injuring countless others in the worst terrorist attacks on American soil.

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- Congress responds to the terrorist acts of September 11 with a raft of new laws providing funding for victim assistance, tax relief for victims, and other accommodations and protections for victims. As part of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, a new federal victim compensation program is created specifically for the victims of September 11. The program includes many types of damages normally available only through civil actions, such as payment for pain and suffering, lifetime lost earnings, and loss of enjoyment of life. To receive compensation, claimants are required to waive their right to bring civil action for damages suffered as a result of the terrorist acts.
- Congress passes and President George W. Bush signs the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, a package of antiterrorism legislation that includes changes to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), including increasing the percentage of state compensation payments reimbursable by the federal government and allowing OVC to fund compliance and evaluation projects.
- OVC augments state victim compensation funding to aid victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania; offers assistance to victims of the September 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon through the Pentagon Family Assistance Center; and establishes a toll-free telephone number and secure website for victims and their immediate family members.
- The Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act and Jennifer's Law increase the annual Crime Victims Fund set-aside for child abuse victims from \$10 million to a maximum of \$20 million, and allow the use of Byrne grant funds for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Jennifer's Law authorizes \$2 million per year through Fiscal Year 2002 for states to apply for grants to cover costs associated with entering complete files of unidentified crime victims into the FBI's NCIC database.

- New regulations, policies, and procedures for victims of trafficking dramatically change the response to this class of crime victims by agencies throughout the federal government, including the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and several U.S. Department of Justice agencies (the FBI, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and U.S. Attorneys' Offices).

2002

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$519 million.
- OVC releases final program guidelines and an accompanying application kit for the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program for Terrorism and Mass Violence Crimes, which provides funding to compensate and assist victims of terrorism and mass violence that occur within and outside the United States.
- The National Crime Victimization Survey continues to show a decline in crime victimization. Violent crime victimization dropped 10 percent from the previous year, and property crime dropped 6 percent.
- President Bush attends the presentation of the National Crime Victims' Rights Week awards and announces the Administration's support for the proposed Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA) is established. With OVC support, NAVAA provides technical assistance and training to state VOCA assistance administrators.
- OVC makes available the first Helping Outreach Programs to Expand (HOPE) grants to grassroots, nonprofit and community-based victim organizations and coalitions to improve outreach and services to victims of crime through the support of program development, networking, coalition building, and service delivery.

- Congress appropriates approximately \$20 million to fund services to trafficking victims, including shelter, medical and mental health care, legal assistance, interpretation, and advocacy.
- President Bush hosts the first White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children and announces his support for the Hutchison-Feinstein National AMBER Alert Network Act of 2002, which would help develop, enhance, and coordinate AMBER (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response). The Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs is designated as the National AMBER Alert Coordinator at the Department of Justice.
- By the end of 2002, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam have established crime victim compensation programs.
- *Our Vulnerable Teenagers: Their Victimization, Its Consequences, and Directions for Prevention and Intervention* is released by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and the National Center for Victims of Crime. This landmark report documents the disproportionate representation of teenagers, ages 12 to 19, as victims of crime, and discusses promising prevention and intervention strategies.
- Congress passes federal legislation making the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), formerly known as the Violence Against Women Office, a permanent part of the Department of Justice, with a presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed director.
- permanent, independent office within the U.S. Department of Justice.
- Congress passes and President Bush signs the PROTECT Act of 2003—also known as the “AMBER Alert” law—which creates a national AMBER network to facilitate rapid law enforcement and community response to kidnapped or abducted children.
- The American Society of Victimology (ASV) is established at the first American Symposium on Victimology held in Kansas City, Kansas. The ASV serves as a forum for academics and practitioners on all topics related to victimology in partnership with the World Society of Victimology.
- The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 is enacted to track and address the issue of rape in correctional institutions and develop national standards aimed at reducing prison rape.
- Congress establishes January as National Stalking Awareness Month.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline, operated by the Texas Council on Family Violence, receives its one millionth call.
- The U.S. Postal Service releases the Stop Family Violence postage stamp to raise money for domestic violence prevention programs.
- Congress appropriates \$22 million for the U.S. Department of Defense's Family Advocacy Program, \$900,000 of which is for the National Domestic Violence Hotline Awareness, Intervention, and Prevention Campaign in the military services.
- The Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 is enacted to provide new protections against identity theft and help victims of identity theft recover their financial losses.
- Congress passes and President Bush signs the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. Along with reauthorizing programs created under the first TVPA, this legislation strengthens prevention efforts, supports prosecution of offenders, simplifies the process by which victims are certified eligible

2003

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$361 million.
- The Senate Judiciary Committee passes the federal victims' rights constitutional amendment to ensure basic rights to victims nationwide.
- Congress makes the Office on Violence Against Women (formerly the Violence Against Women Office within the Office of Justice Programs) a

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for benefits, and allows benefits and services to be available for victims' family members who are legally allowed to come to the United States. The legislation also creates a civil cause of action for victims of forced labor or forced prostitution.

2004

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$834 million.
- The U.S. Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault releases its report and recommendations for preventing sexual assault in the military and providing a sensitive response to victims. The recommendations include establishing a single office within the U.S. Department of Defense to handle sexual assault matters, launching an information campaign to inform personnel about services available to victims, and convening a summit to update the definition of sexual assault and address victim privacy concerns within the military context.
- The Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act is enacted, defining aggravated identity theft as stealing another person's identity in connection with the commission of other specified felonies. The legislation also prohibits the court from ordering an offender's sentence for identity theft to run concurrently with a sentence imposed on the same offender for any other crime.
- Congress passes and President Bush signs the Justice for All Act of 2004, which includes the Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis, and Nila Lynn Crime Victims' Rights Act, providing substantive rights for crime victims. The law provides mechanisms at the federal level to enforce the rights of crime victims, giving victims and prosecutors legal standing to assert victims' rights, authorizing the filing of writs of mandamus to assert a victim's right, and requiring the U.S. Attorney General to establish a victims' rights compliance program within the Department of Justice. The legislation authorizes \$155 million in

funding over the next five years for victim assistance programs at the federal and state level. This omnibus crime legislation also provides funding for DNA testing, crime labs, sexual assault forensic examiners, and programs for post-conviction DNA testing.

- President Bush hosts the first national training conference on human trafficking, which brings together trafficking response teams of federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and victim service providers from at least 21 cities with a known concentration of trafficking victims. The conference emphasizes the importance of combating trafficking using a victim-centered approach.
- The National Center for Victims of Crime releases *Repairing the Harm: A New Vision for Crime Victim Compensation in America*, which examines compensation data from all 50 states, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, and compensation programs in other countries. The report also recommends a framework for strengthening victim compensation in the United States.

2005

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$668 million.
- The U.S. Department of Justice establishes an online national sex offender registry that provides real-time access to public sex offender data nationwide with a single Internet search.
- OVC and the Bureau of Justice Assistance initiate a program to establish teams of law enforcement task forces and victim services to respond to human trafficking. The primary goals of this program are to develop sustainable programs to combat human trafficking through proactive law enforcement and prosecution at all levels of government, to coordinate U.S. Attorneys' Offices' efforts, to collaborate with victim service providers, and to

increase the identification and rescue of trafficking victims.

- The U.S. House of Representatives establishes the first congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, co-chaired by Representatives Ted Poe (R-TX) and Jim Costa (D-CA). The mission of the Caucus is to elevate crime victim issues in Congress in a bipartisan manner, without infringing on the rights of the accused, and to advocate for crime victims' interests before the Administration and within Congress.
- The Department of Justice announces more than \$84 million in DNA grants nationwide as part of President Bush's Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology initiative. The initiative is designed to improve the nation's capacity to use DNA evidence by eliminating casework and convicted offender backlogs, funding research and development, improving crime lab capacity, providing training for all stakeholders in the criminal justice system, and conducting testing to identify missing persons.
- Attorney General Alberto Gonzales issues the revised *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*. The guidelines incorporate provisions for crime victims' rights and remedies, including those in the Justice for All Act, which had been enacted since the publication of the previous edition. The guidelines also address victim and witness assistance in human trafficking and identity theft cases.
- The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators releases the Crime Victims Fund Report, which highlights the Crime Victims Fund's contribution to the federal government's efforts to assist victims, analyzes the sources of deposits into the Fund, examines the issues involved in administering the Fund, and explores future challenges to the Fund's capacity to meet victims' needs.
- The American Bar Association (ABA) releases *Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams: A Replication Manual*, developed by the ABA Commission on Law and

Aging and funded by OVC, providing guidance to communities on establishing elder abuse fatality review teams that review deaths caused by or related to elder abuse.

- The U.S. Department of Justice issues its final rule implementing the victims' rights compliance provisions of the Crime Victims Rights' Act portion of the Justice for All Act. The rule establishes the Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman within the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) to receive and investigate complaints relating to the provision or violation of the rights of crime victims. The rule also creates procedures for filing complaints, investigating complaints, and imposing disciplinary sanctions against employees when warranted.
- The U.S. Department of Defense announces a new sexual assault policy. The policy creates a military-wide definition of sexual assault, sets a baseline standard for prevention and response training for the armed services, and requires all military installations to have a sexual assault response coordinator with a staff of victim advocates. The policy also requires the establishment of a senior level of command to handle sexual assault cases and review any administrative discharges of sexual assault victims.

2006

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$650 million.
- Congress passes and President Bush signs the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005. This reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act increases focus on access to services by underserved populations; includes provisions for early intervention, prevention, and health care; and promotes a national commitment to keep women and children safe from fear and abuse. It:
 - Creates the Sexual Assault Services Program, which is the first federal funding stream

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dedicated to direct services for victims of sexual assault.

- > Provides housing resources to prevent victims from becoming homeless and ensure that victims can access the criminal justice system without jeopardizing their current or future housing.
 - > Establishes prevention programs that intervene early with children who have witnessed domestic violence, support young families at risk for violence, and change social norms through targeted interventions with men and youth.
 - > Improves the response to violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women, funding research and establishing a Tribal registry to track sex offenders and orders of protection.
 - > Creates a National Resource Center on Workplace Responses.
- Congress passes and President Bush signs the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005. This law expands the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 by enhancing efforts to fight domestic trafficking in persons.
- During the National Crime Victims' Rights Week ceremony, OVC awards the first Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Awards to honor outstanding individuals whose leadership, vision, and innovation have led to significant changes in public policy and practice that benefit crime victims.
- President Bush signs the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. Along with increasing supervision of sex offenders, this wide-ranging legislation also extends the federal Crime Victims' Rights Act to federal habeas corpus proceedings arising out of state convictions, eliminates the statute of limitations for federal prosecution of certain sexual offenses and child abduction, and extends the civil remedy for child sex crime victims to persons victimized as children, even if their injuries did not surface until the person became an adult.
- Attorney General Gonzales launches Project Safe Childhood, aimed at ending Internet-based child sexual exploitation. This nationwide project creates locally designed partnerships of federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies together with community leaders to develop a coordinated strategy to prevent, investigate, and prosecute sexual predators, abusers, and pornographers who target children. All United States Attorneys are charged with taking the lead in designing a strategic plan for their community.
- The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decides *Kenna v. U.S. District Court for the Central District of California*, in which the court considered whether the Crime Victims' Rights Act portion of the Justice for All Act gave victims the right to speak at sentencing hearings. The case involved a father and son who swindled dozens of victims. The defendants pled guilty to wire fraud and money laundering. More than 60 victims submitted victim impact statements. At the father's sentencing hearing, several victims spoke about the effects of the crimes, but at the son's sentencing, the judge refused to allow the victims to speak. The court held that the district judge had made a mistake, and made three key points: (1) in passing the Crime Victims' Rights Act, it was the intent of Congress to allow victims to speak at sentencing hearings, not just to submit victim impact statements; (2) victims have a right to speak even if there is more than one criminal sentencing; and (3) the remedy for a crime victim denied the right to speak at a sentencing hearing is to have the sentence vacated and a new sentencing hearing held in which the victims are allowed to speak.
- The Department of Justice issues its final rule implementing the new International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement Program (ITVERP). This new federally administered program extends crime victim compensation to American victims of

terrorism abroad, reimbursing them for direct, out-of-pocket expenses resulting from an act of terror.

- President Bush signs the Older Americans Act Reauthorization (OAA), which includes victim-related provisions. It requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a long-term plan for a national response to elder abuse; improves access to programs and services under OAA by addressing the needs of older individuals with limited English proficiency; promotes multidisciplinary responses by states and Indian Tribes to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and preserves the long-term care ombudsman program.

2007

- For the first time ever, the Crime Victims Fund deposits surpass a billion dollars, totaling \$1.02 billion.
- Attorney General Gonzales and Federal Trade Commission Chairman Deborah Platt Majoras release the President's Identity Theft Task Force strategic plan to combat identity theft. Task Force recommendations include reducing the unnecessary use of Social Security numbers by federal agencies, establishing national standards requiring private entities to safeguard the personal data they compile and to notify consumers of any breach that poses a significant risk of identity theft, implementing a consumer awareness campaign, and creating a National Identity Theft Law Enforcement Center to coordinate law enforcement efforts and information to improve the investigation and prosecution of identity thieves.
- OVC makes the first payments of the ITVERP program to U.S. victims of international acts of terrorism, including the victims of: the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; the October 2002 Bali, Indonesia, nightclub bombing; the May 2003 bombing of expatriate housing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; and the 2003 airport bombing in Davao City, Philippines.

- House and Senate Resolutions establishing September 25 as the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims coincide with the first annual national event held on Capitol Hill.

2008

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$896 million.
- President Bush signs into law the Identity Theft Enhancement and Restitution Act as part of the Former Vice President Protection Act of 2008. This legislation permits courts to order restitution to cybercrime victims for the costs associated with identity theft, including the loss of time and money spent restoring their credit record.
- OVC releases two guides on the rights of victims of perpetrators with mental illness, a long-underserved victim population. *Responding to People Who Have Been Victimized by Individuals with Mental Illnesses* sets out the steps policymakers, advocates, mental health professionals, and others can take to understand and protect the rights and safety of these crime victims. *A Guide to the Role of Crime Victims in Mental Health Courts* offers practical recommendations to mental health court practitioners about how to engage crime victims in case proceedings. Both publications were developed by the Council of State Governments' Justice Center.
- Congress passes the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008, which amends the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. This legislation extends funding for various programs to serve homeless youth, including programs to prevent the sexual abuse of youth. It includes a requirement for regular statistical reports on the problem.
- OVC releases the *Resource Guide for Serving U.S. Citizens Victimized Abroad*, an online guide to help U.S.-based victim service providers deliver comprehensive and effective services to victims of overseas crime. The guide helps service providers access resources abroad and in the United States.

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- The Government Accountability Office (GAO) releases a report on the federal Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA). The report makes a number of recommendations to improve CVRA implementation, including making efforts to increase victims' awareness of mechanisms to enforce their rights, restructuring the complaint investigation process to promote greater independence and impartiality of investigators, and identifying performance measures regarding victims' rights.
- President Bush signs legislation requiring the Department of Justice to develop and implement a National Strategy on Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, to improve the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to increase resources for regional computer forensic labs, and to make other improvements to increase the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute child predators.
- President Obama names Lynn Rosenthal to the newly created position of White House Advisor on Violence Against Women.
- Congress passes and the President signs the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009 (FERA), expanding federal fraud laws to cover mortgage fraud, additional forms of securities fraud, and certain money laundering; and authorizing additional funding for investigation and prosecution of such fraud. The new law also establishes a Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission to examine the causes of the current financial and economic crisis in the United States and present its findings to the President and Congress in 2010.
- President Obama and the House of Representatives recognize the 15th anniversary of the passage of the Violence Against Women Act through a Presidential Proclamation and House Resolution.
- The Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, releases the first national report on crimes against persons with disabilities, based on the National Crime Victimization Survey. The report finds that the rate of nonfatal violent crime against persons with disabilities was 1.5 times higher than the rate for persons without disabilities. The report fulfilled the mandate of the Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act.

2009

- The Crime Victims Fund deposits total \$1.75 billion.
- U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics releases the first national statistics on the prevalence of stalking in America. *Stalking Victimization in the United States* finds that 3.4 million persons identified themselves as victims of stalking in a 12-month period.
- President Barack Obama signs the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which includes supplemental funding for crime victim assistance and compensation, STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against Women formula grants, and transitional housing programs for domestic violence victims.
- President Obama issues the first White House Proclamation of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, releases a report on a national survey on children's exposure to violence, the most comprehensive survey to date on this issue. The report includes findings regarding children's direct and indirect exposure to specific categories of violence, how exposure to violence changes as children grow up, and the prevalence and incidence of multiple and cumulative exposures to violence.
- President Obama establishes the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, comprising more than 20 agencies, 94 U.S. Attorneys' Offices, and state and local partners, to examine mortgage fraud, Ponzi schemes, tax fraud, predatory lending, credit

card fraud, and more. Its goal is to improve efforts to investigate and prosecute significant financial crimes, ensure just and effective punishment for those who perpetrate financial crimes, recover proceeds for victims, and address financial discrimination in the lending and financial markets.

- Congress passes and the President signs the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. The Act extends the definition of federal hate crimes to include crimes based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; authorizes the Attorney General to provide assistance to state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes; and amends the Hate Crimes Statistics Act to include crimes motivated by gender and gender identity, as well as hate crimes committed by and against juveniles.